

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING

(Meeting to Plan DAIC Feast & Forum)

Monday, August 17, 2009 – 5:00 p.m.

Mayor's Reception Room

Room 405, 4th Floor City Hall

Commissioners Present: Ricky DeFoe; Donna Ennis; Warner Wirta; Donna Blue Bird; Bea Kitto; Tony LaDeaux; Michele Gordon

Staff Member present: Kathie Severson

Excused Absences: Toni Dickenson; Ron Boshey

Unexcused Absences: Renee Van Nett; Joy Dorscher

1. Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Introductions

Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Ricky DeFoe at 5:17 pm.

DeFoe also moved to make a change in the agenda, due to a grants specialist coming in at 6 pm. This item will be moved to 4. C. This motion was seconded by Donna Ennis, moved to approve the agenda with that motion. Motion was seconded by Michele Gordon. Motion passed by all commissioners.

Commissioners introduced themselves as did those in attendance (see sign-in sheets for those attending).

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from the July 27, 2009 Meeting

Staff will check the sign-in list from last meeting to see if Mr. Herrvra signed in with a number or address. We are also not sure of the spelling of his name, so this will be checked out as well.

Motion by Donna Ennis, seconded by Warner Wirta, to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2009 meeting. Motion passed with all commissioners' approval.

3. Community Public Forum/ Open Public Comment Period

Warner Wirta brought in DVDs from Gregg Price, regarding the Barrels in Lake Superior. These are for the commissioners to view and keep. Donna Ennis took these to ask her son to make copies for all commissioners.

4. Old Business

A. AICHO'S Gimaajii (YWCA Housing/ Indian Center) report – Maria Danz

Maria Danz was not present for this evening's meeting.

Planning for Duluth Indian Community Feast/ Forum

A park permit has been requested for Lincoln Park, with Harrison Center as a back-up in case of inclement weather. The date is Thursday, August 27, 2009. The Agenda has been set (see attachment), with the Mayor also committing to be there. Our keynote speaker is Gordon Ramsay, Chief of Duluth Police Department. Pat Garbow-Long will be catering the event. There are funds in our account to pay for this. Commissioners are welcome to bring a dish if they choose to do so. A drum group is being secured by Renee Van Nett and Ron Boshey. Neither was present this evening, so this is not set for certain as of this meeting. Staff will be checking to see if monies can be given to the caterer and the drum group up front. Ron Boshey was contacted regarding the drum group, who will be: Ogedabik. The stipend will be made out to Patrick LeGarde, with payment to five members of the drum at a total of \$250.00. Michele Gordon will provide the speaker system for the event.

Motion by Michele Gordon, seconded by Donna Ennis, to pay the caterer, Patt Garbow-Long, \$900, and the drum group, Ogedabik, Patrick LeGarde, \$250, out of Commission funds. Motion approved by all commissioners present.

Staff will put this billing invoice in and try to get payment for both. Invitees will include our email mailing list, plus the City Council members and Human Rights Commission.

All commissioners will be on the clean-up committee.

B. Joni Theobald, Grants Specialist

Ms. Theobald was invited to speak by Chair, Ricky DeFoe. She is from Lac Du Flambeau. She and her family will be living in Duluth. She will be working on her doctorate at UMD soon. Jerry Ojibway has her helping with FDL tribe with some projects at the Ojibway school. She has an extensive past employment history. Her husband is an FDL enrollee. JDAI is one area that Ricky DeFoe is thinking Joni Theobald could be helpful, in the area of grant writing.

Donna Ennis suggested that a commissioner work with Joni on any future projects that may be developed. One role of the commission is resource development. We partner with other agencies to develop programs regarding needs of the community, such as language skills (Ojibwe). Ricky DeFoe volunteered to help Ms. Theobald with future projects. This will be an education sub-committee. Donna Ennis also volunteered to be on this committee. Donna Blue Bird cautioned that no pedophiles be allowed to work with the children in any future projects/programs. She also cautioned regarding those with past assaults being allowed to work with children. Donna Blue Bird also volunteered to be on this sub-committee. Ms. Theobald suggested connection with an agency non-profit 501C3 to be fiscally responsible for any future projects/programs. The new sub-committee will include Ricky DeFoe, Donna Ennis and Donna Blue Bird. Bea Kitto asked if the Elders Concerns group could also be involved with any projects/programs in the future. Ms. Theobald's contact information is: jade_0530@hotmail.com Her phone number is: 608-338-9038.

5. Announcements, Upcoming Events and Comments from Commission Members

Donna Ennis shared about meeting and welcoming Senator Al Franken to Duluth last week. She summarized this event for the commissioners. Donna brought up the Barrels in Lake Superior to Al Franken. He wants more information. He sits on the Indian Affairs committee in DC, and Donna would like to invite him here at some point to hear Native concerns in this area. She will also invite him to our Feast and Forum, but this may be late for him to be invited. She asked for other ideas of things and events to invite Al Franken to.

Warner Wirta said he will keep in contact with Donna Ennis regarding the Barrel issue in regard to Al Franken. He also brought up Spirit Mountain and an editorial he has written to the Spirit Mountain board. He mentioned that Rick DeFoe is trying to get appointed to this board, but has not been accepted yet. Mayor Ness made another suggestion to this board. Warner wants Native membership on this board now. Warner is giving his letter "To Whom It May Concern." He also gave it to the Hillsider paper. Warner is concerned that no Native person has ever sat on the Spirit Mountain board. See Attached copy.

Donna Blue Bird brought up a law in Duluth whereby one can report to their landlord any damages to one's family. The landlord will then be held responsible and fined if he does not take care of his tenants' needs in this regard. On the internet there is a place where you can get grants to police the police, Ms. Blue Bird stated. She said that one can even go to Washington DC, via the internet, and make a report there regarding any police abuses. She brought these things up regarding the Wallace Saice case that was presented here at our last meeting. Donna Ennis will try to find Herb Bergson to invite him to the Feast & Forum and to a future meeting.

Bea Kitto brought up a complaint that she is not notified when something is going on in the community. She would have liked to have been there (with the recent tee-shirt incident). Sometimes things happen so quickly, however. Donna Blue Bird shared her experience with this incident. Donna Ennis shared her experience with the tee-shirt incident. She had asked Bob Grytdahl to accompany her, and they found shirts that were offensive to not only Native people, but to women, and African Americans as well.

Tony LaDeaux commented on the tee-shirt incident. He also commented on the Wallace Saice incident, saying that Mr. Saice is now buying the home he has been renting.

Michele Gordon brought up the pow-wow in Bad River this weekend. She also mentioned that Melanie Ford lost her son last week, and the commission will be sending a sympathy card to her.

Ricky DeFoe brought up bringing issues to the City Council regarding the issues we are working on in our commission. He suggested we bring these issues to the City Council personally at their meetings in the public forum time. He encouraged all the sub-committees to attend the council meetings to share what they are working on. Ricky also shared he just completed the year-long ceremonial process regarding his wife's death.

Ernie Diver spoke from the community regarding the sub-committees. He shared he was in the Black Hills recently and how people came together to prepare on how to address things politically. The challenge is to change how people think, he said. He also suggested including many people on things that are up-coming, and then it will be stronger. The stronger the better, he shared.

6. Next Meeting/ Date/ Location

Monday, September 21, 2009 – 5:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Donna Ennis, seconded by Tony LaDeaux, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:36. All commissioners approved.